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Diana T Fritz 02/05/2007 05:43:34 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 02998

SIPDIS
CXABU:

ACTION: PAO
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM

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ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB
CLEARED: PAO:TRWHATLEY

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OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5764
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0835
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0872
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 002998

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA; INR/NESA;
INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH, PASS TO MOC; PARIS FOR ZEYA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ/WEST BANK

1. Summary: The suicide bombings in Beersheeba yesterday and the kidnapping of two French journalists in Iraq dominated coverage in local print and electronic media. An editorial in "Al Khaleej" noted that the suicide bombings in the West Bank are defensive acts. An editorial in "Al Bayan" suggested that foreign hands were at work in the kidnappings, while "Akhbar Al Arab" pointed out that kidnapping innocent people will not help the resistance. "Al Khaleej" editorialized on the presence of large numbers of Israeli spies inside the US government. "Al Ittihad" printed an article criticizing the lack of condemnation for Bin Laden in Muslim countries. End Summary.

2. Commenting on the suicide bombing that took place in the West Bank yesterday and noting that the Palestinians were only defending themselves, "Al-Khaleej" editorialized 09/01: (Arabic daily, Sharjah-based, circulation 85,000)

". These operations confirm that what Sharon tried to do by building the wall and reoccupying the lands that were free could all be wiped out by one person who could destroy all the fortresses of occupation. Of course, now everyone will stand in line to condemn the Beersheeba operations forgetting what the

Zionist did and are still doing, as if killing Arabs is allowed since the American 'Law of the Jungle' allows it, and it is forbidden for the Arabs to defend themselves."

¶3. Noting that the kidnapers of the French journalists in Iraq are far from the honorable resistance, "Al Bayan" editorialized 08/31: (Arabic daily, Dubai-based business-oriented, circulation 40,000)

". What can be affirmed is that the kidnapping of the French journalist benefits strange powers that are far from the honorable resistance; these kidnappings serve the occupation and its tails and supporters. It is not absent from the minds of the intelligent people that there are harmful and dangerous hands that are playing with Iraq, some are well-known such as the Zionist intelligence agencies, and some are unknown and are trying to distort the picture of resistance and raise hate among Muslims and people in the world, and to harm the French Muslims in particular."

¶4. Commenting on the kidnapping of the French journalists and noting that kidnapping innocent people will not help the resistance, "Akhbar Al-Arab" editorialized 08/30: (Arabic daily, Abu Dhabi-based, circulation 20,000)

". The whole world agrees that resistance is something that is legitimate that is based on the country's right of independence, freedom, and sovereignty. And resistance is an honorable phenomenon. So what good will kidnapping civilian innocents do who are not even part of the conflict?. If it were not for the media and the journalists who convey to the world the developments, opinions, and events no one would have ever heard about the Iraqi resistance. Kidnapping journalists and civilians will harm the resistance cause. What is worse is that these kidnapping forces are distorting the picture of Islam and the picture of resistance."

¶5. Noting that if the U.S. focused more on their country's policy towards Israel they would discover that the Israeli spy is just a small part of what the Zionists are really doing in the U.S. administration, "Al-Khaleej" editorialized 08/29:

". The Israeli spies in the U.S. are many, and what was revealed in the Pentagon is very similar to what is happening in other American official departments, institutes, and companies. And this is growing more and more while the White House policy is built on satisfying the Zionist entity, and this is what is distorting the picture of the U.S. in the world and is making it lose its credibility and become hated."

¶6. Writing in "Al Ittihad" on 8/28, (Arabic daily, Abu Dhabi-based semi-official, circulation 85,000) Kuwaiti columnist Dr.Saad Bin Tafla Al Ajmi wrote an article under the headline "We Are All Bin Laden" noting how Muslims were against the British Indian writer Salman Rushdi and made a big fuss about a book he wrote but there were no reactions against Bin Ladin who killed many innocents:

". The questions about our attitude as a nation towards Bin Laden are very interesting, especially the attitude towards 'political' Islam, and the political hypocrisy that has caused so much damage to the Muslims. I don't say damage to Islam because no one including Bin Laden could damage Islam. It is very sad to compare our attitude as a nation and as Muslims towards Salman Rushdi to our attitude towards Bin Laden. Do we remember Salman Rushdi?. Let us leave all opinions aside, but has there been any demonstration against what Bin Laden did and is still doing in Muslim countries? Maybe some of us demonstrated in our hearts in support of Bin Laden? Satellite channels race to broadcast his speeches and his fatwas, not to forbid them like Salman Rushdi's book was forbidden, did we announce prizes for whoever captures Bin Laden like we did towards Rushdi? We gave an idea to the whole world with our weak position and attitude towards Bin Laden that we are all Bin Laden!"

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